

David Bryan/R7/USEPA/US

07/20/2012 04:41 PM

To Karl Brooks

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest - 7/20/12

OPA Daily Digest for 7/20/12

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (Mo.) – Letter – 7/18/12. Questions about the bidding process for the contract to perform lead remediation work at the Omaha Lead Site. Due: 7/31/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (Mo.) – Email – 7/16/12 – Questions about the status of lead remediation projects in St. Francois County. Due: 7/18/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 7/6/12 – Requests a status update on the West Lake Landfill superfund site. Due: 7/10/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Joplin Globe – Josh Letner – 7/20/12: Questions about green infrastructure technical assistance for Neosho, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

The Kansas City Star - More questionable GSA spending. Drumsticks anyone - 7/19/12 - First it was a nearly \$1 million conference in Las Vegas, featuring \$7,000 worth of sushi, a mind reader and a clown. Now it turns out that just weeks after that lavish affair two years ago, the General Services Administration spent \$20,000 on drumsticks, the non-edible kind, and nearly \$30,000 for “time temperature picture frames” for an awards ceremony in nearby Virginia.

<http://midwestdemocracy.com/articles/more-questionable-gsa-spending-drumsticks-anyone>

The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) - DNR responds to EPA criticism on water regulation | Dispute involves livestock confinement operations - 7/19/12 - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is treading carefully around EPA findings that the state has not adequately enforced Clean Water Act provisions dealing with the impact of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

<http://thegazette.com/2012/07/19/dnr-responds-to-epa-criticism-on-water-regulation/>

Agribiz (Iowa) - Iowa Joins 10 States in EPA Suit - 7/19/12 - Last Friday, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller joined nine other states in filing a motion to intervene in a federal lawsuit in which several environmental advocacy groups are calling for EPA to establish and enforce numeric criteria standards for the entire Mississippi River watershed. <http://agribiz.org/2012/07/iowa-joins-10-states-in-epa-suit/>

Kearney Hub (Neb.) - Farm bill may cost \$969B over 10 years - 7/20/12 - The Senate on Tuesday started plowing through a long list of amendments to the pending farm bill, although high-profile proposals to strip popcorn subsidies and raise federal grazing fees failed to reach even a vote.

http://www.kearneyhub.com/news/local/farm-bill-may-cost-b-over-years/article_cd140074-bad9-11e1-97f

9-001a4bcf887a.html

Daily Disgust (blog) - Iowa DNR to comply with EPA's request for improved livestock regulations - 7/19/12 - A week ago we reported that EPA called on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to improve their livestock regulations. The Iowa DNR has since stated that they will comply with the EPA.

<http://dailydisgust.wordpress.com/2012/07/19/iowa-dnr-to-comply-with-epas-request-for-improved-livestock-regulations/>

Also Iowa Environmental Focus

Omaha World-Herald - Iowa heeds EPA report on feedlot pollution - 7/19/12 - A state review of a federal Environmental Protection Agency investigation into Iowa's regulation of concentrated animal feeding operations is under way, officials said Wednesday.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120719/NEWS/707199917/1707>

The Hays Daily News (Kan.) - Ethanol plant asks council for help - 7/19/12 - Regis Weiss made an impassioned plea to the Russell City Council, asking them to consider White Energy's past and ongoing conservation efforts in light of the city's request to reduce water use by 25 percent.

<http://www.hdnews.net/Story/russellwater071912>

The Hays Daily News - Businessman urges city to solve issues - 7/19/12 - The Russell City Council heard about water -- and problems about the city's electrical system -- from Curt Mader, who owns Marvin Gardens greenhouse. He urged the council to keep looking for water.

<http://www.hdnews.net/Story/russellwater071912-side1>

St. Louis Business Journal - Doe Run scrutinized for pollution from smelter in Peru - 7/20/12 - St. Louis-based lead producer Doe Run is being scrutinized over pollution from metal smelting operations by its former subsidiary in Peru. A House subcommittee heard testimony Thursday about pollution from a Peruvian smelter once owned by the company.

http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2012/07/doe-run-criticized-for-poor-pollution.html

Des Moines Register - Utility battles high water use, algae caused by drought - 7/19/12 - Des Moines Water Works has scrambled to keep taps running with odorless water as algae pile up in the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers and dry conditions force utility officials to consider additional sources of water. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120720/NEWS/307200036/1001/>

Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: Pipeline plan looks sound - 7/20/12 - The process that Nebraska established to review TransCanada's proposed new oil pipeline route is in its early days yet. Thus far, it appears to be working as planned. <http://mavstoday.com/article/20120720/NEWS0802/707209981>

Kansas City Star - Topeka asks public to consider conserving water - 7/19/12 - Topeka city officials are asking residents to consider voluntarily conserving water. The request is in response to Gov. Sam Brownback's declaration of drought conditions in Kansas.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/07/19/3713328/topeka-asks-public-to-consider.html>

Blog for Iowa - Congressman Dave Loebsack To Tour Drought Stricken Areas Saturday - 7/20/12 - Congressman Dave Loebsack announced today that he will be touring four counties in Southern Iowa on July 21st. These four counties were recently approved for emergency farm loans because of the recent lack of rain and severe heat in the area and in Missouri.

<http://www.blogforiowa.com/2012/07/20/congressman-dave-loebsack-to-tour-drought-stricken-areas-saturday/>

Environmental Health News - Smog standard rejected by Obama would save thousands of lives yearly, study finds - 7/20/12 - A new smog standard that President Obama withdrew last fall would save thousands of lives each year if implemented, particularly in the Los Angeles region, New York City and Chicago, according to a new study led by Johns Hopkins University scientists.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2012/smog-standard-rejected-by-obama-would-save-t>

[housans-of-lives-each-year](#)

Environment News Service - Texans Sickened by 'Accidental' Gas, Oil, Chemical Emissions - 7/18/12 - Flares, leaking pipelines and tanks emitted 92,000 tons of toxic chemicals into the air during accidents, break-downs and maintenance at Texas oil and gas facilities, refineries and petrochemical plants over the past three years. <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2012/2012-07-18-01.html>

New York Times - Widespread Drought Is Likely to Worsen - 7/20/12 - The drought that has settled over more than half of the continental United States this summer is the most widespread in more than half a century. And it is likely to grow worse. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/20/science/earth/severe-drought-expected-to-worsen-across-the-nation.html>

Reuters - Analysis: Why the U.S. ethanol mandate is drought-resistant - 7/19/12 - At first glance, it would seem like a golden moment for critics of the U.S. law that requires more and more corn to be made into ethanol every year. Even as the crop wilts, the farm economy has rarely looked healthier thanks to high property prices, widespread accessibility to insurance and a four-year commodity boom. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-usa-ethanol-droughtbre86i166-20120719,0,1392322.story>

CNN - The war over coal is personal - 7/19/12 - Amanda Sedgmer, mother of five and daughter of coal country, believes that in this presidential election, her way of life is at stake. "If you ask anybody in the coal industry what would happen if Obama is re-elected, they'd say the coal industry is done," said Sedgmer. <http://www.cnn.com/2012/07/17/us/embed-america-energy-war/index.html>

Domestic Fuel - Ethanol Detractors Call for End of RFS - 7/19/12 - A coalition of livestock and poultry groups continue to attack the veracity of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) that mandates the amount of renewable fuels that must be used each year in the transportation fuel supply. <http://domesticfuel.com/2012/07/19/ethanol-detractors-call-for-end-of-rfs/>

E&E Daily - Tension mounts at Senate hearing on economic impacts to tribes - 7/20/12 - Tensions flared yesterday at a Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing when questions to a U.S. EPA official regarding what kind of economic analysis the agency conducts on the negative effects of regulations on tribal businesses went unanswered. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2012/07/20/8>

E&E Daily - 'We aren't done,' Jackson vows on 'Colbert Report' - 7/20/12 - U.S. EPA has unfinished business to handle even though the United States has already cleaned up its flaming rivers, leaded gasoline and smog so thick it obscured the midday sun, Administrator Lisa Jackson said during an interview yesterday on the late-night comedy show "The Colbert Report." <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2012/07/20/16>

E&E News PM - Agency scores poor marks on 'plain writing' report card - 7/19/12 - U.S. EPA is struggling to comply with a federal requirement that agencies use "plain writing" to ensure that the public can understand government communication, according to the Center for Plain Language. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2012/07/19/3>

Greenwire - Agency restricts hiring, citing 'very constrained' budget - 7/19/12 - U.S. EPA has directed its programs and regional offices to hire one employee for every two who leave, citing a "very constrained" budget that promises to get more challenging in fiscal 2013. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2012/07/19/20>

The Christian Science Monitor - America's big drought: Time to rethink water conservation - 7/19/12 - Much of the Lower 48 is in a bad drought, the worst since 1956. Yet each drought also brings new ideas for adapting to nature's vagaries. What ideas are worth considering now? <http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2012/0719/America-s-big-drought-Time-to-rethink-water-conservation>

ClimateWire - Utilities concerned about supply almost as much as economic crisis -- study - 7/20/12 - The near-term prospect of declining freshwater supplies is a top worry for water utilities, according to a new study commissioned by the Water Research Foundation.
<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2012/07/20/5>

E&E Daily - Bill from Baucus, Tester would guarantee \$80M a year for rural projects - 7/20/12 - Montana Democratic Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester are pushing Senate legislation to provide a guaranteed \$80 million a year for rural water projects long delayed by lack of funding.
<http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2012/07/20/10>

iWatch News - Study finds toxins from mountaintop coal mining sites - 7/20/12 - The U.S. Geological Survey has found high levels of toxic compounds in soil and water around mountaintop-removal mining sites in central Appalachia, a potentially groundbreaking finding with human health consequences.
<http://www.iwatchnews.org/2012/07/20/9947/study-finds-toxins-mountaintop-coal-mining-sites>

iWatch News - Electrical grid is not well protected - 7/20/12 - A government watchdog is calling for tighter — and more coordinated — cyber security efforts by federal agencies to protect the U.S. electricity grid, a potentially vulnerable target for U.S. enemies.
<http://www.iwatchnews.org/2012/07/19/9909/electrical-grid-not-well-protected>

NPR - Drought In Danger Of Beaching Mississippi Barges (audio) - 7/18/12 - The drought that's impacting much the country is drying up crops and now rivers. The Mississippi River is experiencing water levels low enough to affect barge traffic.
<http://www.npr.org/2012/07/18/156993570/drought-in-danger-of-beaching-mississippi-barges>

ClimateWire - Drought begins to take its toll on nation's livestock; effects on food prices still to come - 7/19/12 - Corn and other feed crops from the Rocky Mountains to the Ohio River Valley continue to wither from the punishing sun and lack of rain. In turn, the nation's livestock, pork and dairy producers have begun to incur higher prices for what is often their biggest expense -- feed for their pigs and cattle.
<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2012/07/19/1>

Bloomberg - U.S. Solar Tax Credit Pays for Itself With 10% Return - 7/19/12 - A 30 percent U.S. federal tax credit for owners of solar-power systems pays for itself when electricity from those systems is sold, creating taxable revenue, a trade group said.
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-19/u-s-solar-tax-credit-pays-for-itself-with-10-return.html>

BNA - FERC Policy Seen Providing More Flexibility for Wind Energy, Other Non-Utility Developers - 7/20/12 - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a proposed policy statement July 19 for public comment that is intended to provide more flexibility for non-utility developers of transmission projects to negotiate with potential customers and generators for transmission capacity on new lines.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27352070&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0d3r1v2n2&split=0

BNA - Water Utilities Call on Congress to Repeal Exemption for Fracking Under Current Law - 7/20/12 - Three water utility organizations have called on Congress to remove the exemption that generally excludes hydraulic fracturing from permitting requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27352044&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0d3r0q8x1&split=0

BNA - Cellulosic Biofuel Requirement in Gasoline Should Be Lowered, Sensenbrenner Tells EPA - 7/20/12 - EPA is required to reduce requirements for petroleum refiners and importers to blend cellulosic biofuels into gasoline if a sufficient amount of the biofuel is unavailable, Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) said in a July 19 letter to the agency.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27352057&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0d3r1k8w4&split=0

BNB - GSA Use of LEED Rating System Damaging Market, Building Representatives Testify -

7/20/12 - The General Services Administration's use of a private green building rating system is creating a monopoly that is damaging the building market, industry representatives told lawmakers July 19.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27352050&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3r1j1b3&split=0

BNB - House Subcommittee Approves Bills to Relax Restrictions on Ozone-Depleting Substances

7/20/12 - The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power July 19 approved two draft bills that would relax restrictions on certain ozone-depleting substances.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27352051&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3r1j4r2&split=0

BNB - House Panel Says Flow of Regulations Has Increased Under Obama Administration -

7/20/12 - In a report released July 19, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee criticized what it termed "the aggressive march of the regulatory state" under President Obama. In the report, the committee concluded that federal agencies issued 106 major rules in the first three years of Obama's presidency, nearly four times the number issued over that period during the second Bush administration.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27352067&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3r1t7q4&split=0

Inside EPA - Advisors Likely To Urge EPA To Significantly Expand Review Of Rules' Costs -

7/19/12 - EPA's advisors appear likely to urge the agency to expand its review of its rules' costs, suggesting during a recent teleconference that officials conduct a few more quantitative assessments.

<http://insideepa.com/201207192405097/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/advisors-likely-to-urge-epa-to-significantly-expand-review-of-rules-costs/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Auto, Oil Sectors Criticize New Group's Plan To Replace RFS With LCFS - 7/19/12 -

Automobile and oil industry sources are sharply criticizing plans by a newly formed coalition to replace EPA's renewable fuel standard (RFS) with a broader low carbon fuel standard (LCFS),

<http://insideepa.com/201207192405098/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/auto-oil-sectors-criticize-new-groups-plan-to-replace-rfs-with-lcfs/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Roundly Criticized Over Draft Supplement To Civil Rights Plan - 7/19/12 - EPA is facing strong criticism from industry and environmentalists on its draft document, included as part of its broader environmental justice (EJ) strategy, for addressing discrimination in its funding awards.

<http://insideepa.com/201207192405000/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-roundly-criticized-over-draft-supplement-to-civil-rights-plan/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Delayed Markup May Signal Softening Of Bill Targeting DOE Loan Program - 7/19/12 -

A key House subcommittee has delayed until next week a planned markup of legislation that would scuttle the Energy Department's (DOE) loan guarantee program for new project applicants and bar subordination of government claims to private investors.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201207202405099/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/delayed-markup-may-signal-softening-of-bill-targeting-doe-loan-program/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Presidential Science Debate - 7/19/12 - The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and a host of other science groups are asking President Obama and his GOP challenger, former Gov. Mitt Romney (MA), to agree to a debate on science and environmental policy questions and are proposing a series of issues to be addressed, including how to deal with climate change, water quality and clean energy.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201207192405044/Clean-Energy-Report-Blog/Blogging-Clean-Energy/presidential-science-debate/menu-id-204.html>

BBC News - Green streets can cut pollution, says study - 7/18/12 - The creation of "green walls" in urban areas could cut pollution by up to 30%, scientists have suggested. UK researchers say more trees

and other vegetation at street level would clean air in areas that are normally exposed to higher pollution levels. Plants in towns and cities have been shown to remove nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM), both of which are harmful to human health.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18873391>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

7/24-26/12 – Lead Task Force Meeting and Site Tour, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Cecilia Tapia, 7733 and Julia Cacho, 7071

7/27/12 – Missouri Environmental Conference at the Lake, Osage Beach, Mo. Contacts: Julia Cacho, 7071 and David Cozad, 7587

7/27/12- Lincoln University Water Boot Camp Certificate Ceremony, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Kris Lancaster, 7557 and Monica Espinosa, 7541

8/17/12 – Meetings with IDNR and Farm Broadcasters, Des Moines, Iowa. Contacts: Kris Lancaster, 7557 and Josh Svaty, 7202

9/10/12 – Bayer CropScience Community Advisory Panel, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Rich Hood, 7906

11/19/12 – 2012 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

8/13-17/12 - ORD Lead Region Transition Planning Meeting with Region 10, Corvallis, Ore. Contacts: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566 and Dana Peters, 7444

9/11- 12/12 - Attend Hypoxia Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

9/13/12 - Attend National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

Other Events

AWMD

7/26/12 - Attending Missouri Air Conservation Commission public meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147

7/31/12 - Attending the Cooper Nuclear Plant exercise, Brownsville, Neb. Contact: Robert Dye, 7605

8/1/12 - Attending Pollution Prevention Intern report-outs, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

8/7/12 - Attending Pollution Prevention Intern report-outs, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

8/7/12 - Giving presentation at the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

7/26/12 - Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp, Olathe, Kan. Contact: Michael Minor, 7539

8/9/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

9/13/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

10/11/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

7/22-30/12 - ORD/U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) sampling event, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

7/31 - 8/2/12 – Meeting with the incoming Lead Region Coordinators and the National Program Directors, Washington, DC. Contact: Tony Petruska, 7637

PLMG

8/1-2/12 - Sustainable Communities Building Blocks code audit workshops in Dallas Center, Woodward and Van Meter, Iowa. Contact David Doyle, 7667

8/8/12 - Sustainable Communities Building Blocks code audit workshop in Hays, Kan. Contact David Doyle, 7667.

RA/OPA

7/25-26/12 – Missouri Lead Task Force Tour and Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo., and Meramec State Park, Sullivan, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

7/26/12 – Public Availability Session, Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Site, Norfolk, Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 and Owens Hull, 7726

***7/27/12** – “We the People: A Look Inside Congress,” Congressional Seminar and Career Fair with Congressman Emanuel Cleaver and Congressman Kevin Yoder, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

SUPR

None

WWPD

7/23-26/12 - Office of Pesticide Programs Office Director and others participating in resistance management in corn, field tours/discussions, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Jamie Green, 7139